september
scanlations
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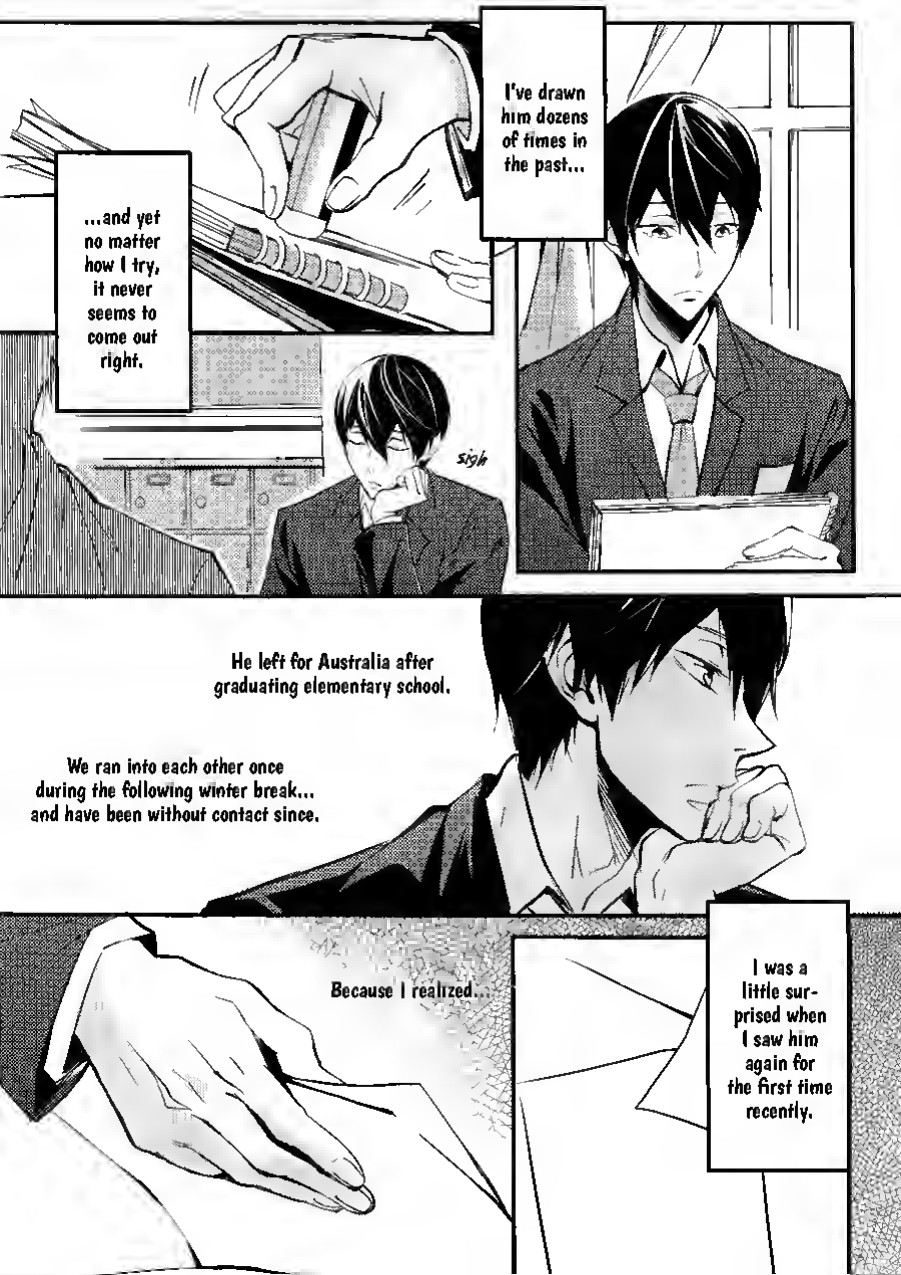
MISSING
R18

Someone once asked me why I like drawing.
I didn't know how to respond.
Because I'd never felt that I really liked drawing.
I love white paper...
...and the sensation of the pen as it flows over the paper.
It reminds me of swimming.
Paper and water are somewhat alike as well.
Full of freedom.

As long as I remember it, I can draw anything.
I've always drawn when I couldn't swim.
Things I feel in my heart...
Things I see with my eyes...
I can draw anything, if I feel like it.

...with one exception.
I can't seem to remember what his face looked like.


I've drawn him dozens of times in the past...
...and yet no matter how I try, it never seems to come out right.
sigh
He left for Australia after graduating elementary school.
We ran into each other once during the following winter break... and have been without contact since.
Because I realized...
I was a little surprised when I saw him again for the first time recently.

...that Rin...
...had become a stranger to me.
RUB RUB
YOU'RE THE SAME AS EVER, HARU. HAVEN'T MADE ANY PROGRESS AT ALL
He spoke to me in words I didn't understand.
I'M DISAPPOINTED
THIS STUPID THING

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Even the way he looked from behind...
...I DON'T NEED IT ANYMORE...
...seemed like...
...another person altogether.
CLANG

It was in that moment that I realized...
...that I couldn't draw his face anymore now.
Rin...

GREAT WORK!
WE'LL END OUR JOINT PRACTICE HERE TODAY.
SAMEZU
MIKO-SHIBA-SAN!
THANKS SO MUCH FOR TODAY!
YOU DID A FANTASTIC JOB, GOU-KUN.
AND IT'S ALL THANKS TO YOU THAT WE'VE BEEN ABLE TO MAKE SUCH IMPROVEMENTS IN OUR PRACTICES LEADING UP TO MEETS!
NOT AT ALL, I'M GLAD I COULD HELP.
OH RIGHT! MIKOSHIBA-SAN...
HM?

HMM, THIS IS KIND OF AWKWARD...
RIN? OH, DID YOU NOT HEAR?
I HAVEN'T SEEN MY BROTHER AROUND TODAY...
WHAT IS IT?
SO I KICKED HIM OUT AND SENT HIM ON HIS WAY!
That brat!
Don't bully my brother!
AND THEN HE HAD THE NERVE TO STUBBORNLY INSIST HE COULD STILL SWIM TODAY!
EH?!
MATSUOKA HURT HIMSELF TRAINING YESTERDAY
EVEN HAD BLOOD ON HIS FOREHEAD
It was pretty bad!
I wonder if it has to do with the conversation I heard him and Haruka-senpai having outside the store...
SO MY BROTHER GOT HURT
I DUNNO, HE WAS SPACING OUT, SO I FIGURED SOMETHING MUST'VE BEEN OFF
HE PROBABLY...
...HAD SOMETHING ON HIS MIND

I didn't see Rin at today's training session.
CLANG
Samezuka Academy's indoor pool.
Hrmm

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glance
PSSH
stare...
WHY DON'T YOU STOP PISSING AROUND AND START THINKING ABOUT OUR RACE, HUH?
WHAT'RE YOU LOOKING AT?

turn
NOTHING
HERE WE GO AGAIN
WHAT?
WAIT--
DON'T YOU LEAVE ME!
HARU!

DID YOU DO YOUR BEST?
THERE'S SOMETHING I WANT TO ASK YOU
pause
THAT DAY WE RACED...
clench
...SAY SOME-THING!

I'LL SAY THIS ONE MORE TIME, RIN
ALL I WANT IS TO BE ABLE TO SWIM. I DON'T CARE ABOUT RACES, OR WINNING OR LOSING
What the hell is with him?
twitch
THAT AGAIN? I ASKED YOU IF YOU WENT ALL OUT WHEN WE RACED!
IT DOESN'T MATTER
IT DOESN'T MATTER?

WHAT THE HELL DO YOU THINK MY RACING YOU IS?
.....
NOTHING ELSE MATTERS. I DON'T CARE.
I TOLD YOU: ALL I WANT IS TO BE ABLE TO SWIM
clench

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THIS ISN'T A JOKE!
YOU DON'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT ANY-THING!
WHAT DO YOU CARE?
I'M NOT GONNA LET THIS INJURY HOLD ME BACK!

鮫柄学園

NANASE-KUN'S SO GOOD AT DRAWING!

HE'S SO COOL!
RIGHT RIGHT??
HE'S GREAT AT SWIMMING AND A GOOD DRAWER...
hmph
BUT HE'S KIND OF COLD TOO, HUH! HE DOESN'T SEEM TO CARE ABOUT ANYTHING!
YEAH, NOW THAT YOU MENTION IT...
HUH? YOU THINK?

chatter
chatter
clench
THAT'S NOT TRUE AT ALL.

NO, I JUST OVER-HEARD A BIT
Ehehah
AH, YOU WERE LISTEN-ING TO US TALK, TACHIBANA-KUN?
IT'S NOT THAT HE DOESN'T CARE ABOUT ANYTHING.
YOU'VE GOT THE WRONG IDEA A-BOUT HARU.
IT'S THAT. HE KEEPS IT ALL BUNDLED UP INSIDE.

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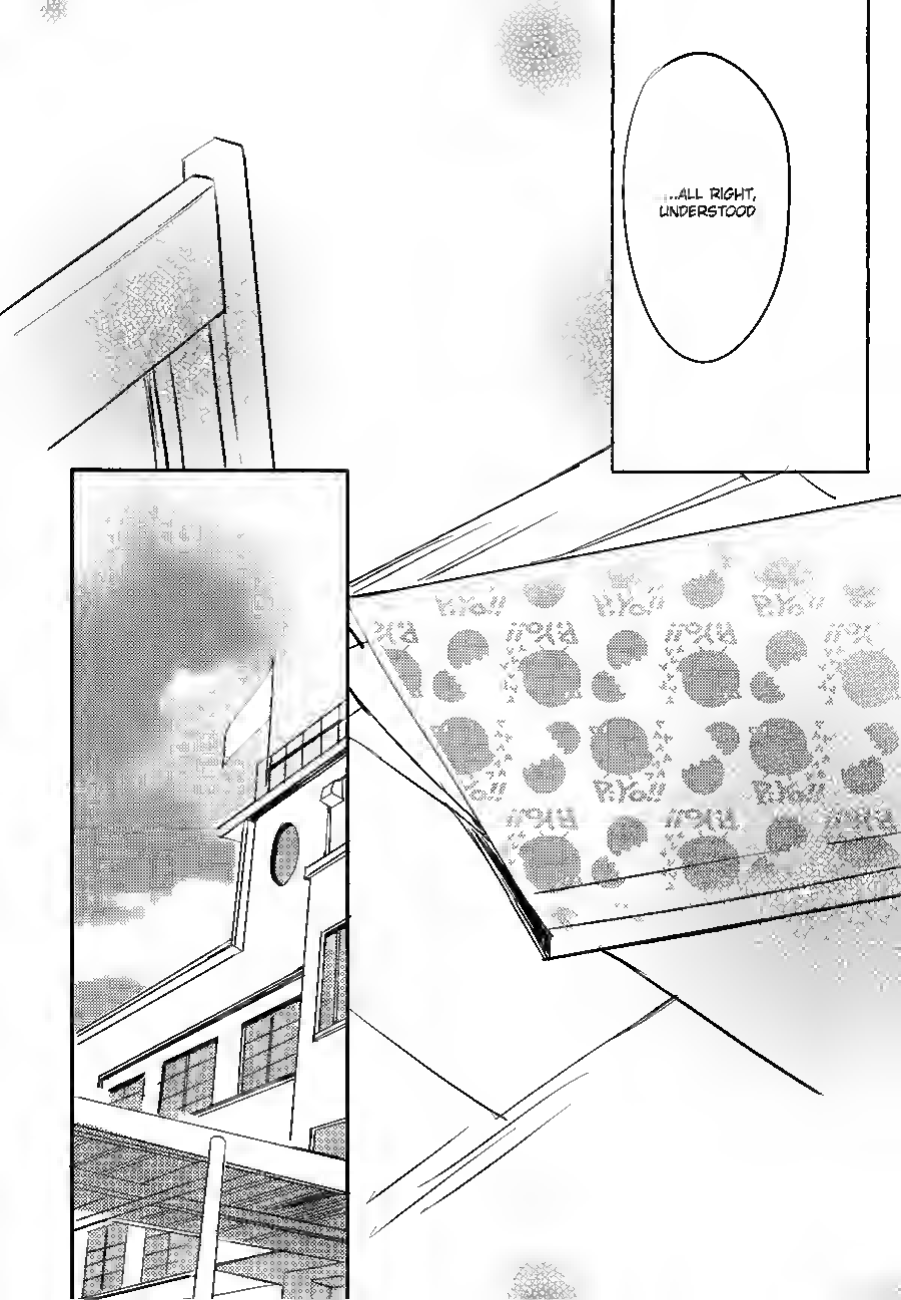
BZZZ
BZZZ
BZZZ
MATSUOKA KOU
rustle
So please be sure to come early!
Ah, Haruka-sempai! It's Kou! I'm sorry to be so late in contacting you.
Practice tomorrow will start an hour earlier.
HELLO?


...ALL RIGHT, UNDERSTOOD

WHERE ON EARTH COULD I HAVE LEFT IT THEN...?
WHAT'S WRONG?

HAVE YOU SEEN MY NEW TRAINING MENU, SENSEI?
IT'S IN A FILE ABOUT THIS BIG
With a cute chick pattern!
IT MIGHT BE IN HIS BAG OVER THERE?
I THINK NANASE-KUN HAD A FILE WITH HIM EARLIER..
HMM...
AH...!

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MIKOSHIBA-SAN?
AH, AND MY BROTHER'S HERE TOO!
FANCY RUNNING INTO YOU HERE!
HAS THAT DEADWEIGHT OF YOURS LEARNED TO SWIM YET?
Are you sure he's all right?
HOW GOES YOUR SPECIAL TRAINING?
OH, JUST FINE!

Hahaha!
HE'S ABSOLUTELY FINE, OF COURSE!
rustle
SEE?
I'VE EVEN PUT TOGETHER A NEW TRAINING REGIMEN!
What the heck is this?
Huh?

SMUG
IS...THAT...
HUH?! NO WAY!
Ah!
snatch
WOW, WHO DREW THIS? IT LOOKS A LOT LIKE HIM!
YOU'RE A PRETTY GOOD ARTIST, GOU-KUN! WISH I HAD A LITTLE SISTER LIKE YOU, MYSELF!
...RIN?

WAIT, WHERE'S THE REGIMEN I MADE?!
TH--THAT'S NOT MINE!
OH? THEN WHO DREW THIS...?
MAYBE SOMEONE WITH A CRUSH ON RIN? HE'S PRETTY POPULAR...
HE EVEN GOT LOVE LETTERS AT THE LAST TOURNAMENT!
MATSUOKA-SEMPAI! COME LOOK AT THIS!
WHAT IS IT?

THESE ARE ALL PICTURES OF YOU!
IT SEEMS A GIRL WHO LIKES YOU DREW THEM.
鮫柄学園

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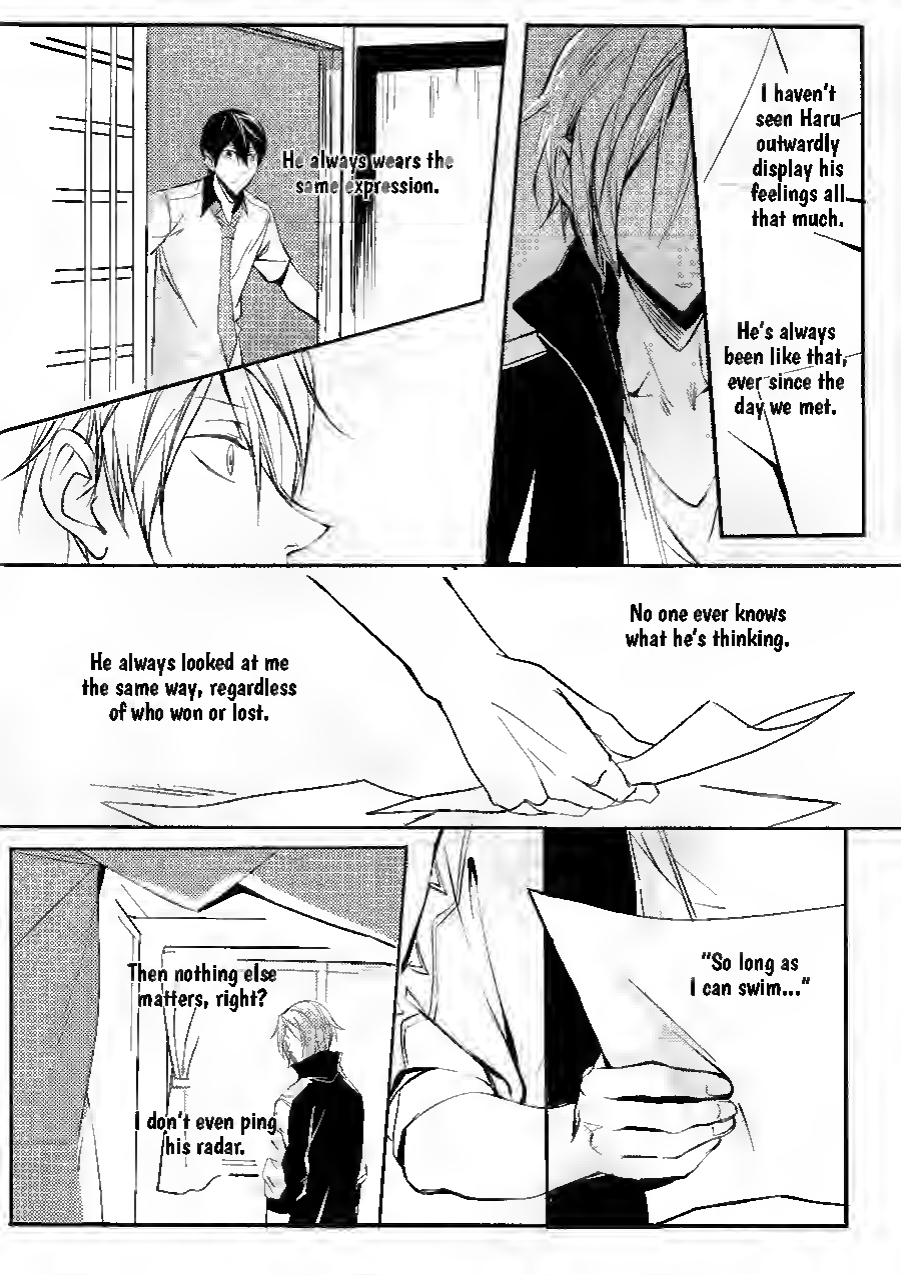
That Haru...!

crumple

DING DONG
DING DONG
It's not here...

DING DONG
DING DONG
unlock
RATTLE
鮫柄学園

RIN ..?
SHOVE
W--WAIT--


He always wears the same expression.
I haven't seen Haru outwardly display his feelings all that much.
He's always been like that, ever since the day we met.
No one ever knows what he's thinking.
He always looked at me the same way, regardless of who won or lost.
Then nothing else matters, right?
I don't even ping his radar.
"So long as I can swim..."

I THOUGHT YOU DIDN'T GIVE A SHIT ABOUT ANYTHING.
THAT I WASN'T EVEN IN YOUR FIELD OF VISION.
...WHAT ARE YOU TRYING TO SAY?
I GOTTA SAY, I WAS SHOCKED.
leer
STOP PLAYING DUMB.

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WHAT'S THE POINT IN FEIGNING IGNORANCE ANYMORE...?
...GOD YOU PISS ME OFF

BADUMP
BADUMP
BADUMP
NO--RIN
WHAT'S WITH THAT EXPRESSION, HARU...?
STEP
!!
WHADYA MEAN "NO"? I THOUGHT NOTHING GOT UNDER YOUR SKIN!

SLAM
!

Rin...

Mm...
stare...
WHAT'S WITH THAT LOOK?
DON'T STARE AT ME...!
DAMMIT...

RIN--
I JUST CAME TO TELL YOU TO STORE YOUR DRAWINGS SOMEPLACE SAFE.
OTHERWISE IT CAUSES A LOT OF TROUBLE FOR THE SUBJECT--ME.
Drawing so many pictures of me like this
DAMMIT, I SAID STOP STARING AT ME!
release
RIN, YOU
AND THE SAME GOES FOR GOU! I CAN'T BELIEVE SHE MISTOOK IT FOR HER MENU!
I KNEW IT WAS YOU IMMEDIATELY.
LOOKS LIKE YOU HAVEN'T MADE ANY PROGRESS WITH YOUR ART, EITHER.
Rin kept talking...
...but I didn't hear any of it.

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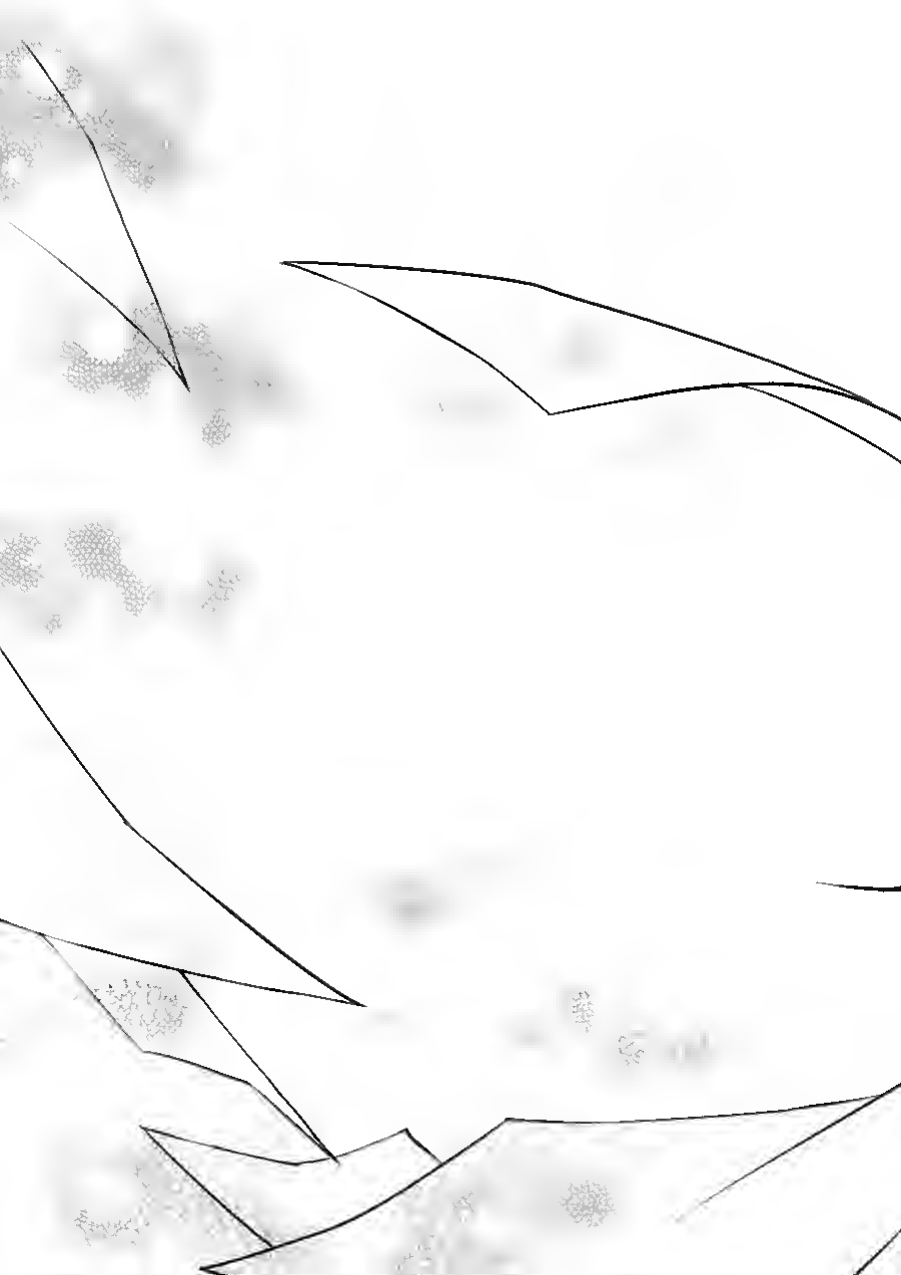
...was the scent of sakura blossoms,
sultry in Spring,
What rose up within my mind...
And the voice he spoke with...he *laughed* with...

Rin...

I finally remembered his face...



NNGH...
W-WAIT...
!!
twitch

WH-WH-WHAT'RE YOU DOING, HARU?!
CALM DOWN!!
ASSHOLE, GIVE ME A BREAK--
SO STOP FLAILING--I DON'T KNOW HOW LONG I CAN HOLD BACK...
I'M MORE THAN CALM ENOUGH.
RIN.
Huh...?

Ah...
WHAT THE HELL IS THAT SUPPOSED TO MEAN?
Nh-
Aah...!

Nnn-
Aah-
HARU-GO..
Hn-
S-SLOW-ER..!
AH!
HARU..
WAI--
huff
huff
dribble...

!
SHOVE
AH-
C'MON, HOLD UP! LET'S AT LEAST GET THE PIC-TURES...
Aah-!
HARU...
HARU... YOUR PICTURES!
slide

ha-AH
THRUST
Nnah-!
Yu-
THRUST
BITE
HARU...!
...Aah-!
schlick

!!
Rin's back overlapped with that in my memory...

Rin...
But as he lay there, panting...
I couldn't tell if he'd ever really left my side...
...he called my name over and over again.
Unlike the boy in my pictures... he was real.

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LEMME GO... IT'S HOT...
JUST SHUT UP FOR A MINUTE...
WHY YOU--
...WHAT'S WITH YOU?
HARU... HARU...?
...was real.

THE END.